United Nations A/59/70

General Assembly

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Fifty-ninth session
Item 123 of the preliminary list*
Administration of justice at the United Nations

Administration of justice in the Secretariat: outcome of the work of the Joint Appeals Board during 2002 and 2003

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 55/258, which, in section XI, paragraph 5, had requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly on an annual basis on the outcome of the work of the Joint Appeals Board. In response to that request, the Secretary-General's report on the administration of justice in the Secretariat (A/58/300 of 20 August 2003) provided information concerning the outcome of the work of the Board for 2001-2002. The present report provides information on the work of all Joint Appeals Boards for the year 2003; and, for comparative purposes, further contrasts the data for 2003 with those for 2002.

* A/59/50 and Corr.1.

04-29013 (E) 140404

Introduction

1. In section XI, paragraph 5, of its resolution 55/258 of 14 June 2001, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly on an annual basis on the outcome of the work of the Joint Appeals Board (JAB). In response to that request, the Secretary-General's report on the administration of justice in the Secretariat (A/58/300 of 20 August 2003) provided information on the work of all JABs for the period 2001-2002. The present report provides information and numerical data on the work of the Boards for the year 2003.

Outcome of the work of the Joint Appeals Board

2. Table 1 below and its accompanying figure set out information, in numerical and graphic form, on the work of the JABs in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi for the years 2002 and 2003 by providing the number of appeals and suspension-of-action cases filed and disposed of[1] during that year.

3. As can be seen from table 1 and its figure, there was a decrease in the number of appeals filed with most of the JABs during 2003, except for the Geneva JAB. The New York JAB, which received 13 fewer appeals than the year before, represents a decrease of 13 per cent. As for the corresponding figures for the other JABs, the Geneva JAB received 6 more appeals in 2003 than in the year before, for an increase of 21 per cent. The Vienna JAB received 6 fewer appeals in 2003, for a decrease of 40 per cent, and the Nairobi JAB received 1 less appeal, for a decrease of 8 per cent.

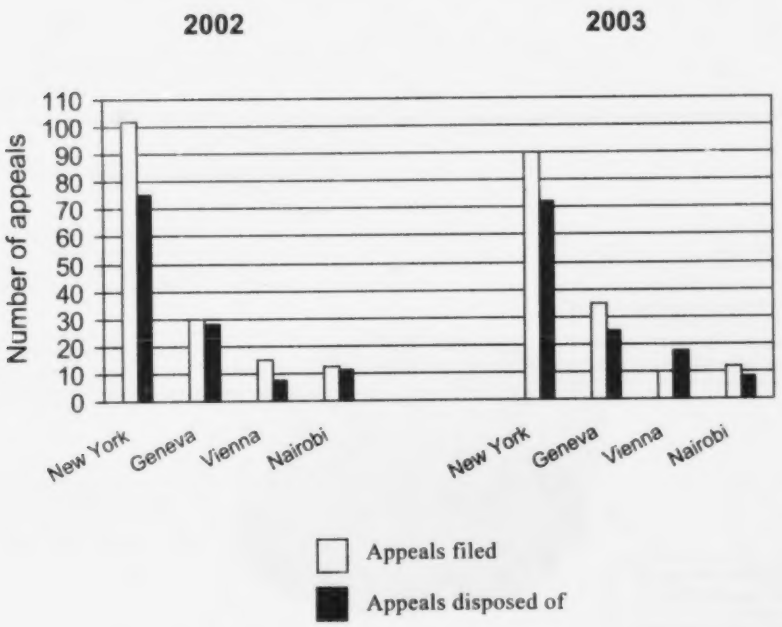
4. Another difference between the two periods concerns the number of cases disposed of by the Boards: while the number of cases disposed of by the New York JAB was slightly smaller than the number of cases disposed of during 2003, for a decrease of 3 per cent, the Geneva JAB disposed of 4 fewer cases during 2003, thus reaching a decrease of 14 per cent. The Vienna JAB disposed of 11 more cases in 2003 than during 2002, thus showing a substantial increase in output of 180 per cent, while the numbers of the Nairobi JAB indicate a decrease in output of 27 per cent.

5. As to the number of pending appeals during the reporting period, it was effectively nil in the Vienna JAB. The Nairobi JAB had 17 pending appeals whereas the Geneva JAB had 36 pending appeals. The New York JAB continues to have the highest number of pending cases, though there was a noticeable decrease in the backlog from 150 cases in 2002 to 117 by the end of 2003. However, not all of those cases were ready for consideration by JAB; indeed, the number of cases where the exchange of written pleadings between the parties had been completed was 47 by the end of 2003.

6. Disciplinary cases are also handled by the JAB secretariats and are always considered on a priority basis. In 2002, the New York Joint Disciplinary Committee (JDC) had considered 8 disciplinary cases, whereas the Geneva JDC considered 3 cases. In 2003, the New York JDC considered 12 disciplinary cases, the Geneva JDC considered 2 disciplinary cases and the Nairobi JDC considered 4 disciplinary cases. No cases were submitted to the Vienna JDC during 2003.

Table 1
Number of appeals and suspension-of-action cases filed and disposed of by all JABs in 2002 and 2003

Standing JABs	*2002*	*2003*	*Percentage change*
New York: appeals filed	102	89	-13
New York: appeals disposed of	74	72	-3
Geneva: appeals filed	29	35	+21
Geneva: appeals disposed of	28	24	-14
Vienna: appeals filed	15	9	-40
Vienna: appeals disposed of	6	17	+180
Nairobi: appeals filed	13	12	-8
Nairobi: appeals disposed of	11	8	-27



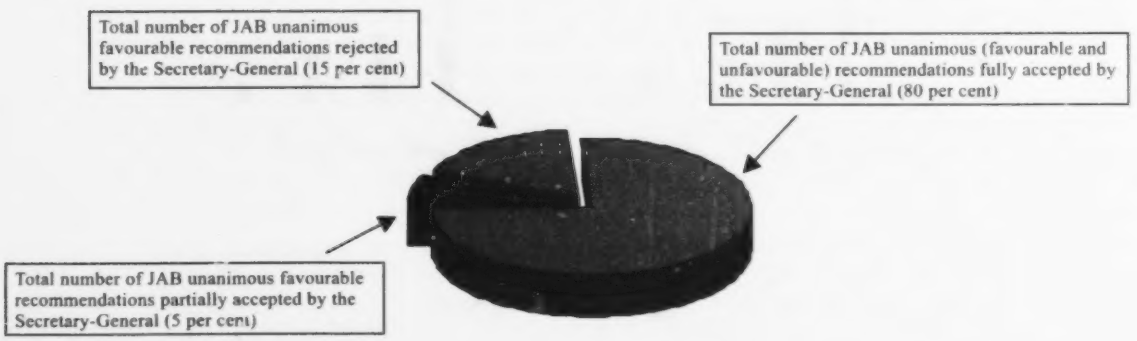
7. Table 2 and its accompanying figures provide information, in numerical and graphic form, on the decisions taken by the Secretary-General on JAB reports for the years 2002 and 2003:

Table 2
Breakdown of decisions taken by the Secretary-General on unanimous JAB recommendations on appeals and requests for suspension of action in 2002 and 2003

2002

JAB reports from	*Total number of decisions on JAB reports*	*Total number of JAB unanimous recommendations*	*Total number of JAB unanimous recommendations fully accepted by the Secretary-General*	*Total number of JAB unanimous recommendations partially accepted by the Secretary-General*	*Total number of JAB unanimous favourable recommendations rejected by the Secretary-General*	*Total number of JAB unanimous unfavourable recommendations*
New York	60	56	42 (75%)	3 (5%)	11 (20%)	30 (54%)
Geneva	14	14	13 (93%)	1 (7%)	0	10 (72%)
Vienna	3	3	3 (100%)	0	0	3 (100%)
Nairobi	8	7	6 (86%)	0	1 (14%)	5 (72%)
Total	**85**	**80**	**64 (80%)**	**4 (5%)**	**12 (15%)**	**48 (60%)**

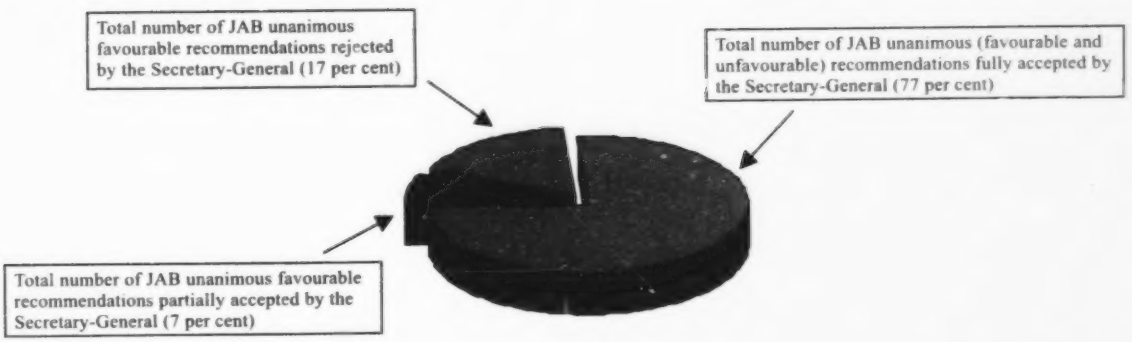
85% (full and partial acceptances)


Total number of JAB unanimous favourable recommendations rejected by the Secretary-General (15 per cent)
Total number of JAB unanimous (favourable and unfavourable) recommendations fully accepted by the Secretary-General (80 per cent)
Total number of JAB unanimous favourable recommendations partially accepted by the Secretary-General (5 per cent)

2003

JAB reports from	*Total number of decisions on JAB reports*	*Total number of JAB unanimous recommendations*	*Total number of JAB unanimous recommendations fully accepted by the Secretary-General*	*Total number of JAB unanimous recommendations partially accepted by the Secretary-General*	*Total number of JAB unanimous favourable recommendations rejected by the Secretary-General*	*Total number of JAB unanimous unfavourable recommendations*
New York	66	65	49 (75%)	6 (9%)	11 (18%)	40 (62%)
Geneva	28	27	23 (85%)	0	4 (15%)	18 (66%)
Vienna	6	6	3 (50%)	0	3 (50%)	3 (50%)
Nairobi	8	8	7 (88%)	1 (13%)	0	3 (38%)
Total	**108**	**106**	**82 (77%)**	**7 (7%)**	**18 (17%)**	**64 (60%)**

84% (full and partial acceptances)


Total number of JAB unanimous favourable recommendations rejected by the Secretary-General (17 per cent)
Total number of JAB unanimous (favourable and unfavourable) recommendations fully accepted by the Secretary-General (77 per cent)
Total number of JAB unanimous favourable recommendations partially accepted by the Secretary-General (7 per cent)

8. As can be seen from table 2 above and its accompanying figures for the years 2002 and 2003, the percentage of full and partial acceptances by the Secretary-General of the unanimous JAB recommendations was kept at similar levels (85 per cent for 2002 and 84 per cent for 2003). As for the percentage of rejections by the Secretary-General of unanimous JAB recommendations that were favourable to the appellants, it was relatively low in both periods (15 per cent in 2002 and 17 per cent in 2003).

9. This is in line with the stated policy of the Secretary-General, which is normally to accept unanimous recommendations, unless there is a compelling reason of law or policy not to do so. In all such instances, the decisions of the Secretary-General provide detailed reasons for the rejection, which in most cases is attributable to the incorrect application of law or policy by JAB or fact-finding that is inadequate and not supported by the available evidence. With the increased training for the members of JAB/JDC in the applicable law and policies of the Organization and the availability of the web-based repository of the recent jurisprudence of the Administrative Tribunal (encompassing jurisprudence on judgements rendered from 1980 onward), the Secretary-General trusts that unanimous recommendations will be more reliably supported by the evidence, as well as reflective of the applicable law, and that consequently the percentage of acceptable recommendations would rise. The Secretary-General would still have the discretionary authority, however, to reject unanimous JAB recommendations, should he find that it was in the interest of the Organization to do so.

Notes

[1] The term "disposed of" refers to appeals with respect to which JAB has completed its involvement. The figures may include appeals that, though filed during a previous year, were disposed of in subsequent years owing to an existing backlog. This explains why, at times, the number of appeals disposed of is higher than the number of appeals filed.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-ninth session
Item 81 of the preliminary list*
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/102 of 9 December 2003 and pertains to the transmittal of information from the administering Powers called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

* A/59/50 and Corr.1.

04-29813 (E) 150404

1. Under the terms of Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, Members of the United Nations which have or assume responsibilities for the administration of Territories whose peoples have not yet attained a full measure of self-government undertake to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General information relating to economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories for which they are respectively responsible other than those Territories to which Chapters XII and XIII apply. In addition, the General Assembly, in several resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 58/102, requested the administering Powers concerned to transmit or continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 *e* of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned.

2. The table annexed to the present report shows the dates on which information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter was transmitted to the Secretary-General for the years from 1999 to 2004.

3. The information transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter follows in general the standard form approved by the General Assembly and includes information on geography, history and population and economic, social and educational conditions. In the case of Territories under the administration of New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, the annual reports of the Territories also include information on constitutional matters. Additional information on political and constitutional developments on Tokelau is given by the representative of New Zealand during meetings of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Supplementary information is also made available by New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States concerning Territories under their administration.

4. In compliance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963 and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly, including in particular resolution 58/102, the Secretariat has continued to use the information transmitted in the preparation for the Special Committee of working papers on each Territory. The Special Committee has taken this information into account in formulating its decisions on these Territories, which are set forth in the relevant chapters of the Committee's report to the Assembly at its current session (see A/59/23 (Part II)). The report also contains an account of the action taken by the Special Committee in implementation of resolution 1970 (XVIII) (ibid., chap. VIII).

5. **Recommendation: The information received from the administering Powers on the Non-Self-Governing Territories will be used for the preparation of the working papers of the Secretariat and discussed by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples at its annual session.**

Annex

Dates of transmission of information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and period covered[a]

	Information received in 2002		*Information received in 2003*	
	Date of transmission	*Period covered*	*Date of transmission*	*Period covered*
France				
New Caledonia[b]	-		**15 January 2004**	**2003**
New Zealand				
Tokelau	24 February 2003	August 2002-February 2003	**15 January 2004**	**July 2003-January 2004**
Spain				
Western Sahara[c]	-		-	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland				
All British Non-Self-Governing Territories	January 2002	2002-2003	**12 January 2004**	**2003**
Anguilla	-	-	**12 January 2004**	**2001-2003**
Bermuda	-	-	**12 January 2004**	**2000-2003**
British Virgin Islands	January 2003	2001-2002	**19 December 2004**	**2002-2003**
Cayman Islands	17 January 2003	2001-2004	**12 January 2004**	
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	15 January-14 February 2003	16 May 2002-3 January 2003	**12 January 2004**	**2003**
Gibraltar	15 January 2003	2002	**12 January 2004**	**2003**
Montserrat	15 January 2003	2001	**12 January 2004**	**1999-2003**
Pitcairn	15 January 2003	2001	**19 December 2004**	**January-November 2003**
Saint Helena	-	-	**January 2004**	**2001-October 2003**
Turks and Caicos Islands	-	-	-	
United States of America				
American Samoa	16 April 2003	2000-2005	-	
Guam	16 April 2003	2000-2005	-	
United States Virgin Islands	16 April 2003	2000-2005	-	

[a] For a preliminary list of Territories to which the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960) applies, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighteenth Session, Annexes*, addendum to agenda item 23 (A/54/46/Rev.1), annex I.

[b] According to its resolution 41/41 A of 2 December 1986, the General Assembly "considers that, in the light of the provisions of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), New Caledonia is a Non-Self-Governing Territory within the meaning of the Charter".

[c] On 26 February 1976, the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that "the Spanish Government, as of today, definitely terminates its presence in the Territory of the Sahara and deems it necessary to place the following on record: ... (a) Spain considers itself henceforth exempt from any responsibility of an international nature in connection with the administration of the said Territory, in view of the cessation of its participation in the temporary administration established for the Territory ..." (A/31/56-S/11997). For the printed text, see *Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-first Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1976*.

A/59/72

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United Nations A/59/72–S/2004/294

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Security Council

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Fifty-ninth session
Item 58 (n) of the preliminary list*
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Note verbale dated 6 April 2004 from the Permanent Mission of Andorra to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Principality of Andorra to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to include herewith a letter of Juli Minoves-Triquell, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Andorra, in his capacity as Chair of the Forum for Security and Cooperation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Andorra to the United Nations would be very grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

* A/59/50 and Corr.1.

04-31094 (E) 190404

Annex to the note verbale dated 6 April 2004 from the Permanent Mission of Andorra to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you in my capacity as current Chair of the Forum for Security and Cooperation (FSC) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In accordance with the desire of the Forum, I respectfully request that the text of the present letter be circulated among member states of the United Nations, as well as UN officials and institutions, as an official document of the United Nations (General Assembly and Security Council), with the aim to increase interaction between different global organizations and to foster increased cooperation. As chair, Andorra shares the wish of the FSC to make its valuable work and goals better known. The FSC, a decision making body within the OSCE, deals with politico-military issues and meets weekly in Vienna.

The Forum is devoted to its traditional mandate of arms control, disarmament and achieving and fostering Confidence and Security Building Measures. The improvement of existing security building measures, their timely adaptation and, the development and implementation of new arms control agreements are key contributions to our political and military stability. A number of key documents guide the Forum. The Vienna Document of 1999 includes evaluation visits, inspections, observation, military contracts, risk reduction mechanisms, information exchanges and regional measures. The Code of Conduct on Politico-military aspects of security deals with the democratic control of military and security forces, international humanitarian law and principles governing the use of force, including in civil conflicts. Finally, the Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons sets out concrete norms, principles and measures to reduce the destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of these weapons.

Annual information exchanges under agreed CSBMs by the Participating States and the attention given to their implementation during the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting serve as a valuable means of preventing conflict and managing crisis. In this yearly meeting experts review the CSBMs implementation and discuss the current and future implementation of the Document.

The Forum has also agreed on a number of other documents that establish common norms and principles related to conventional arms transfers, non-proliferation and localized crisis situations, as well as questionnaires on Anti-Personnel Landmines Convention and Chemical Weapons Convention.

In 2003 the work of the FSC focused on many issues arising from threats to security and stability in the twenty-first century. In accordance with its competencies and mandate, the FSC contributed to the OSCE Document on Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the twenty-first century, adopted at the Maastricht Ministerial meeting. The FSC contribution has proved the continuing relevance of our politico-military *acquis*, including possible adaptations and exploring new ways to adapt the documents to new threats and challenges.

Many activities were carried out during 2003 to ensure and foster the implementation of all confidence and security building measures. New threats require new responses and the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the twenty-first century, presented in Maastricht, both reflects these concerns and attempts to find answers.

We are committed to prevent and combat terrorism, manifested in the FSC Roadmap for Implementation of the Bucharest Plan of Action adopted on 20 March 2002. The OSCE defends an integral vision of the struggle against

terrorism, both by controlling the arsenals and access to arms, and attacking intolerance and human rights violations that in many cases cultivate terrorism. This vision works not only to avoid the disastrous effects of terrorism but also attacks its structural causes.

FSC Decision 7/03, taken in July 2003, and endorsed at the Maastricht Ministerial, reflects the growing concern expressed by the OSCE participating States of the potential catastrophic threat posed by MANPADS. This Decision highlights the importance of effective and comprehensive export controls on MANPADS and calls upon participating States to use existing mechanisms under the OSCE SALW Document to destroy excess MANPADS. The importance of effective and comprehensive export controls for MANPADS must be seen as part of the FSC efforts to combat terrorism. A way to avoid the acquisition of these arms by non-state actors, such as terrorists and criminal groups, is currently under review by the FSC. In addition, the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century insists that the OSCE should use all its tools to address proliferation of MANPADS. The Strategy document also encourages states to ensure the security and integrity of national stockpiles to guard against theft or illicit transfer.

The FSC has also tackled the question concerning the OSCE's contribution to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and thereby reduce the risk of terrorists gaining access to its components.

In this sense, it is essential to mention the effort of the OSCE/ FSC to co-operate with other international organizations, which share responsibilities on this matter. For instance, I would like to point out the presence of Ambassador Sune Danielsson, Head of the Wassenaar Secretariat, as a speaker to our Forum, on the 28th of January this year, and the discussions that followed, which we hope

will lead to the adoption of a new document to control the exports of MANPADS. This document was approved last December in the framework of the Wassenaar Arrangement.

The FSC agreed to expand the scope of information to be exchanged on national measures aimed at preventing and combating terrorism, and provided in States' responses to the Code of Conduct Questionnaire. According to Decision 16/02, taken in November 2002, the Code of Conduct Questionnaire was updated through the expansion of Question 1, which includes commitments toward preventing and combating terrorism, including the ratification and implementation of international agreements in this sphere. The participating States provided additional information on national efforts taken to combat terrorism in April 2003, responding to the 2002 expansion of the questionnaire.

Small arms and light weapons are also the weapons of choice for insurgents, criminals and terrorists. The FSC continues its efforts aimed at preventing a diversion of legally manufactured SALW into the criminal sphere.

In November 2000 the FSC adopted the Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). This Document is the leading tool in the OSCE's response to the excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms, which have been of great concern to the international community, pose a threat to peace and security, and closely relate to high levels of violence and crime. This document also addresses MANPADS, as one part of the category of the light weapons. For the FSC, MANPADS can be addressed as part of the overall small arms framework.

The OSCE Handbook on Best Practice Guides, presented at the Maastricht Ministerial, complements the Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and facilitates the ongoing and full implementation of the OSCE SALW Document. It

offers guidelines for national procedures for manufacture, marking and export and import control, through stockpile security and destruction techniques and small arms measures as part of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. This year one of the goals of the OSCE is to help to introduce the content of the Handbook in the OSCE region as widely as possible. Indeed the handbook has had an impact on work being done elsewhere. General information about the Handbook of Best Practice Guides was presented at the UN Biennial Meeting on SALW in July. In addition, a UN First Committee consensus resolution (from its 2003 session) recognized the work of the FSC in combating illicit trade of SALW in all its aspects and was adopted by the General Assembly.

Currently, the FSC is addressing a proposal related to End-User Certificates. This proposal offers an opportunity for the OSCE to lead in the efforts to ensure tighter controls of small arms exports. Reaching agreement on the elements implicit in this decision would build on the standards provided for OSCE States in the Small Arms and Light Weapons Document and Best Practice Guides on SALW and reaffirm the OSCE's commitment and leadership in this area.

Last summer, Belarus made a request for assistance in the destruction of surplus stockpiles of small arms, thereby launching the practical implementation of the PC-FSC Decision on Section V of the SALW Document. Following a related seminar hosted by Belarus last October and attended by representatives of the FSC Chair and CiO, an assessment visit, as an element of the relevant mechanism, is planned to be held for the first time in Belarus.

In December 2003, the Maastricht Ministerial endorsed the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, which had been completed the month before by the FSC. This document enlarges the FSC acquis and tackles stock surpluses that can cause a risk to security, including environmental problems. It also establishes a mechanism for voluntary co-operation between States that ask

for assistance and those that are prepared to provide it. This mechanism is brought under the Forum's mandate. To continue making progress in addressing the dangerous stockpiling of conventional ammunition we must take the appropriate steps to ensure an expeditious implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition now that it has been endorsed by the highest levels of the Organization. Appropriate steps should be taken to consider the request for assistance made by Ukraine in December 2003 and Belarus in March 2004.

In December, the OSCE decided to seek ways to share information about its principles, norms and standards and to involve the Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in the activities of the Organization. The FSC has already moved forward on this by inviting the Partners to some of its meetings in order to increase interaction with them and to identify areas of common interest and concern and possibilities for concrete initiatives.

As you can see, the FSC takes its responsibility to contribute to the common security of the OSCE states quite seriously. But the work of the FSC is not necessarily limited to the OSCE region. As can be seen with the SALW Document, for example, we feel that the OSCE makes a contribution to global security. I hope this information about recent work in the FSC provides a basis for increased cooperation and interaction between organizations, particularly with the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Juli **Minoves-Triquell**
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Andorra
Chair of the Forum for Security and Cooperation of the
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

A/59/73

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United Nations A/59/73

General Assembly

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Fifty-ninth session
Items 90 (b) and 97 of the preliminary list*

Globalization and interdependence: international migration and development

Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Letter dated 5 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a note dated 17 March 2004 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, María Eugenia Brizuela de Ávila, concerning your initiative to launch the Global Commission on International Migration under the chairmanship of Mr. Jan Karlsson and Mrs. Mamphela Ramphele, with a view to discussing and finding ways of resolving the various problems that result from international migration (see annex).

I should be very grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

(*Signed*) Víctor Manuel **Lagos Pizzati**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/59/50 and Corr.1.

04-31329 (E) 190404 200404

Annex to the letter dated 5 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Note dated 17 March 2004 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to send you my best wishes for peace and success in your important work as head of our world organization.

We have learned of the Secretary-General's welcome initiative to launch the Global Commission on International Migration under the chairmanship of Mr. Jan Karlsson and Mrs. Mamphela Ramphele, with a view to discussing and finding ways of resolving the various problems that result from international migration.

The Government of El Salvador welcomes this important initiative, which will assuredly produce important results on one of the most important issues on the agenda of nations in various parts of the world. El Salvador also wishes to inform the Secretary-General that it takes a keen interest in the work to be done by this Commission and that it would therefore like to be taken into account when the time comes for the Commission to undertake relevant regional consultations, so that it can provide its input on the subject.

El Salvador is no stranger to the problem of migration, for a substantial portion of the population of El Salvador lives outside the country and we have in the region common problems relating to migration. The foreign policy of El Salvador has been marked by a definite concern for these issues. We have taken various kinds of actions and have adopted public policies designed to promote respect for the human rights of migrants and their families, consular protection for fellow nationals abroad and regional coordination of the various public policies between the States touched by migration, whether as countries of origin, countries of transit or countries of destination.

El Salvador would therefore like to express its support for the work to be done by this Commission. It hopes that it will be able to provide an input to the Commission whenever the latter deems that appropriate.

(*Signed*) María Eugenia **Brizuela de Ávila**
Minister for Foreign Affairs